2004

Montana Hunting Regulations

MIGRATORY BIRDS

NEAL AND MJ MISHLER

What's new in 2004?

- Purchase Your Hunting and Fishing Licenses Online
- Apply for Special Permit Drawings Online
  Swan permit deadline: September 3, 2004
- New Hunter Education Requirement
- State School Trust Lands Licensing Changes

See Pages 2 and 3

Turn in Poachers: 1-800-TIP-MONT (847-6668)

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

These regulations and final quotas are adopted under the authority granted to the commission in Section 87-1-301, MCA and are valid March 1, 2004 through February 28, 2005. These regulations were adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission on August 30, 2004. M. Jeff Hagener, Director.

FWP Website – fwp.state.mt.us – The FWP website offers a variety of information to help you plan your hunt. You'll find maps, regulations, and links to road reports, weather service sites and US Forest Service. Also check discoveringmontana.com, the official state website, for a wide variety of information on Montana.

License Requirements

- A hunter may purchase only one migratory bird license per year.
- Persons under 12 may not legally hunt migratory birds.
- Both resident and nonresident migratory game bird hunters must carry on their person the required license(s).
- A valid "Resident of Flathead Reservation Use Permit" with a valid Flathead Reservation bird stamp will be honored by the State wherever hunting for upland or migratory birds is lawful in Montana.
- Conservation, hunting and fishing licenses are available at all Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices, fwp license providers throughout the state and online at fwp.state.mt.us or discoveringmontana.com. The license is valid March 1 through February of the following year.
- **New!** Beginning in 2004, hunters may apply for a swan special permit online at fwp.state.mt.us or discoveringmontana.com. Hunters also have the option of applying by the deadline at any FWP office or through the US Postal Service as specified in these regulations. The deadline to apply for a swan special permit is September 3.

Montana Migratory Bird Licensing Requirements

Waterfowl - (Duck, Geese, Swans)					Webless Migratory Game Birds (Doves, Cranes, Coot & Common Snipe)
Resident/Nonresident	Age	MT Migratory Bird License Required Resident: $5 Nonresident: $50.00	Federal Migratory Stamp Required Resident and Nonresident: $15.00	Conservation License Required Resident: $6.25 Nonresident: $9.25	
Resident	12 to 15	No	No	Yes	Conservation Only
Resident	16 to 61	Yes	Yes	Yes	Conservation & MT Migratory Bird License
Resident	62+ or FWP Certified Disabled	No	Yes	Yes	Conservation Only
Nonresident	12 to 15	No	No	Yes	Conservation Only
Nonresident	16+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Conservation & MT Migratory Bird License

General Regulations

It is unlawful to interfere with or hinder the lawful taking of a migratory game bird.

Baiting – Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.11 and 20.21(i). You cannot hunt waterfowl or any other migratory game bird by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area where you know or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. Baiting is the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could lure or attract migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. A baited area is any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds.

The 10-Day Rule: A baited area remains off limits to hunting for 10 days after all salt, grain or other feed has been completely removed. Waterfowl will habitually still be attracted to the same area even after the bait is gone. The 10-day rule recognizes that removing bait does not remove the lure created and that waterfowl will still be attracted to the area.

You can hunt migratory game birds, including waterfowl, on, over or from:

- standing crops or flooded standing crops, including aquatic plants.
- standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation.
- flooded harvested croplands.
- lands or areas where grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural harvesting or normal agricultural post-harvest manipulation.
- lands or areas where top-sown seeds have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, or a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation.
- a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation.
- a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, provided your use of such vegetation does not expose, deposit, distribute or scatter grain or other feed. You should be aware that seeds or grains from such vegetation could create a baited area.
- standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as the result of hunters entering or leaving the area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds. Hunters are cautioned that while conducting these activities, any intentional scattering of grains will create a baited area.

Check Stations – All hunters are required to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting and fishing areas, even if they have no game or fish to be checked.

Hunter Education – All persons born after January 1, 1985, are required to provide proof of completion of a Montana Hunter Safety and Education Course or a hunter safety course in any other state or province prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license.

Hunter Orange Requirement – Although not required, it is strongly recommended that all bird hunters wear at least a hunter orange hat or cap to reduce the chance of an accident.

Hunting Hours – One half hour before sunrise to sunset except on the Flathead Indian Reservation, the hunting hours shall be sunrise to sunset.

Whooping Cranes – Whooping Cranes are protected by law. It is illegal to take or attempt to take this bird. If a Whooping Crane is sighted, please call 406-444-2612.

Hunter Access

- **Closed Areas** – State game preserves, closures and national parks shall remain closed to hunting of migratory game birds. For hunting privileges on Federal Wildlife Refuges, inquire at the local refuge office. Tribal regulations may differ from state regulations, consult tribal offices.
- **National Wildlife Refuges** – More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations, contact: Special Agent-in-Charge, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225 or telephone 303-236-4306.
- **Ninepipes WMA** – A drawing will be conducted each morning to determine assignment of goose hunting pits at Ninepipes Wildlife Management Area.
- **Private Land Access** – Montana law requires hunters to have the permission of the landowner, lessee, or their agent before hunting on private property, regardless of whether the land is posted or not. Access courtesy cards and a map directory pamphlet are available at all FWP offices.
- **Public Land** – FWP is working cooperatively with other agencies to improve signing of legally accessible public lands wherever possible. A map directory pamphlet is available at all FWP offices.
- **Railroad Access** – Railroad right-of-ways are private property and may not be hunted without permission.
- **State School Trust Lands** –
  - The $10 fee of the past has been replaced by a $2 addition to the conservation license, which allows hunters, anglers and trappers access to all legally accessible State School Trust Lands. Trappers will still need to secure a "Special State Lands Recreational Use License" from DNRC at no additional charge.
  - Other recreational activities such as hiking and bird watching still require the $10 fee. These activities cannot, by Federal statute, be covered by the conservation license. Such a diversion could jeopardize $12 million in federal funds Montana receives annually for fish and wildlife management.
  - Designated roads will be signed as "open" to vehicle use or the information as to which roads (two-track trails) are designated as open will be available at DNRC Area Offices. Motorized use of other roads and trails and all off-road use is prohibited.
- **Tribal Lands** –
  - Hunters hunting migratory birds on Indian Reservations should check Indian Reservation regulations because season dates, bag limits, licensing requirements, shooting hours, legal species and shot shell requirements may differ from state regulations.
  - The State of Montana and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have entered into a cooperative management agreement on the Flathead Reservation. Please check for migratory bird regulations specific to the Flathead Reservation. For information call FWP at 406-752-5501 or the Tribes at 406-675-2700.
- **Wildlife Management Areas** with big game winter range are closed to public entry from the day following the end of the general deer/elk season or December 1, whichever is later to May 15 each year, as posted. EXCEPTION: Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA closes November 10. From November 11 through the remainder of hunting season that portion of Cottonwood Creek lying downstream from the bridge (at WMA headquarters) including the ditch and pond (DU pond) that are connected to the creek will remain open to hunting for ducks and geese only, as posted.

Method of Taking

- Migratory birds may be taken only with long, recurve or compound bow and arrow or shotgun not larger than ten gauge incapable of holding more than three shells fired from the shoulder.
- Migratory birds may not be taken from or by means, or aid of, or use of a sinkbox, aircraft, motor vehicle, motorboat, sailboat or motor-driven conveyance of any kind, except a motorboat or sailboat if you shut the motor off or furl the sail and the vessel is no longer in motion.
- Use of any electronic or phonographic waterfowl-calling device is illegal, as are live decoys.
- No person shall take migratory birds by driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in range of the hunter; by the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement). Hunter should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation.
- It is unlawful for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal or game bird:
  - on, from, or across any public highway or the shoulder, berm, or barrow pit right-of-way of any public highway (the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel, per MCA 61-1-202) in the state of Montana; or
  - by the aid or with the use of any set gun, jacklight, spotlight or other artificial light, trap, snare, salt lick, or bait per MCA 87-3-101. Baiting shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of corn, wheat, or other grain or food sources so as to constitute a lure or attraction.
- **Non-Toxic Shot** –
  - It is unlawful for anyone to use or possess a shotgun shell or ammunition loaded with or containing other than federally approved non-toxic shot, while hunting, taking or attempting to take ducks, geese, swans or coots.
  - Possession of "other than non-toxic shot" means in the gun, or in the pockets, or within reach while in the process of waterfowl hunting. Shot, other than non-toxic shot, left in a vehicle, while parked in the waterfowl hunting area, would not be considered "in possession" for the purpose of hunting.
  - The shot types that are approved as nontoxic for waterfowl hunting in the U.S. are the following. For additional information, go to http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/issues/nontoxic_shot/nontoxic.htm.

Approved shot type	Percent Composition
bismuth-tin	97% bismuth, 3% tin
steel	iron and carbon
tungsten-bronze	51.1% tungsten, 44.4% copper, 3.9% tin, 0.6% iron
tungsten-iron (2 types)	40% tungsten, 60% iron and 22% tungsten, 78% iron
tungsten-matrix	95.9% tungsten, 4.1% polymer
tungsten-nickel-iron	50% tungsten, 35% nickel, 15% iron
tungsten-polymer	95.5% tungsten, 4.5% Nylon 6 or 11
tungsten-tin-bismuth	49-71% tungsten, 29-51% tin; 0.5-6.5% bismuth
tungsten-tin-iron-nickel	65% tungsten, 21.8% tin, 10.4% iron, 2.8% nickel

Procedures to Follow Upon Harvesting Waterfowl

Leave Wing Attached – One fully feathered wing or head must remain attached to each bird (except doves) at all times while being transported from the place where taken to the personal abode of the possessor or a processing facility.

Wanton Waste – No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird pursuant to this part without making a reasonable effort to

retrieve the bird, and retain it in his actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) migratory game bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

Game Parts Suitable For Food – All birds that fall into the size category of a teal duck or smaller only the breasts must be retained.

All birds larger than a teal duck up to the size category of a mallard duck the breasts and the thighs must be retained.

All birds larger than mallard ducks, the breasts, thighs and wings must be retained.

Field Possession Limit – No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field, or while returning from the field to one's vehicle, hunting camp, home, etc.

Tagging – No person shall give, put or leave any migratory birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information: 1) The hunter's signature; 2) The hunter's address; 3) The total number of birds involved, by species; 4) The dates such birds were killed. Tagging is required if the birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if the birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment, or taxidermy services.

Special Two-Day Youth Waterfowl Season

September 25 – 26, 2004 – Statewide

Exception: Canyon Ferry WMA: Shooting hours will be one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to 12 noon September 25 and 26.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is allowing two additional days to provide a special hunting opportunity to encourage youth participation in waterfowling. Legally licensed hunters age 12 through 15 may hunt ducks, mergansers, geese and coots statewide on these days. A nonhunting adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter in the field. The bag limit, shooting hours, hunter safety requirements and all other regulations that apply to the regular waterfowl season shall apply to this special season.

Pacific Flyway

Pacific Flyway: see statewide closures

The Pacific Flyway includes Hill, Chouteau, Cascade, Meagher and Park counties and all counties lying west of these.

Ducks–

Open Season:

October 2, 2004 - January 14, 2005

Pintails & Canvasbacks – Open during two-day Youth Waterfowl Season - September 25-26, 2004. Thereafter, season shall be open October 2 - November 30, 2004.

Bag Limit: The daily bag limit is 7 ducks (including mergansers), except that the daily bag may contain no more than 2 female mallards, 1 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, and 4 scaup.

The possession limit may not exceed twice the daily bag limit of any species and sex.

Coots –

Open Season:

Concurrent with the duck season

Bag Limit: 25 daily and in possession

Geese –

See Exceptions, Pacific Flyway

Open Season:

October 2, 2004 - January 14, 2005 (See Exceptions - Pacific Flyway)

Daily Limit: 3 light geese (Snow, Blue, Ross') and 4 dark geese (any other geese)

Possession Limit: Twice the daily bag

Comon Snipe –

Open Season:

September 1, 2004 – December 16, 2004

Bag Limit: 8 daily and 16 in possession

Swan –

Hunting in Cascade, Chouteau, Liberty, Hill, Toole and portions of Teton and Pondera Counties by special swan permit only. See Exception 1, Pacific Flyway (Swan).

Open Season:

October 16, 2004 – December 1, 2004

Bag Limit: Hunting only by special permit

72-Hour Reporting Requirement – Federal regulations require that hunters shooting a swan in the Pacific Flyway portion of Montana must complete and return a Swan Bill Measurement Card within 72 hours of harvesting a swan. Bill measurement cards may be returned to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks by 1) deposit in regular US mail or 2) by deposit in Swan Bill Measurement Card Deposit Boxes situated in numerous locations at Freezout Wildlife Management Area or 3) by submitting card to any FWP office.

Swan hunters must have, as a means of retrieving swans, a watercraft, a dog capable of retrieving or chest-high waders along while hunting the dikes at Freezout Lake.

Swan Special Permit Application –

- Applicants must possess a current year conservation license.
- Hunters may apply for a swan special permit online at fwp.state.mt.us or discoveringmontana.com OR over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than September 3, 2004. Hunters also have the option of applying by submitting their name, address, phone number, and ALS number, along with a $3 nonrefundable drawing fee. All applications must be postmarked no later than September 3, 2004. A special permit application may be downloaded from the FWP website or may be homemade. Send to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Attn: Swan Special Permit Drawing, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701.
- A total of 500 permits will be issued for the Pacific Flyway.
- Hunters may apply for a swan special permit in only one flyway.

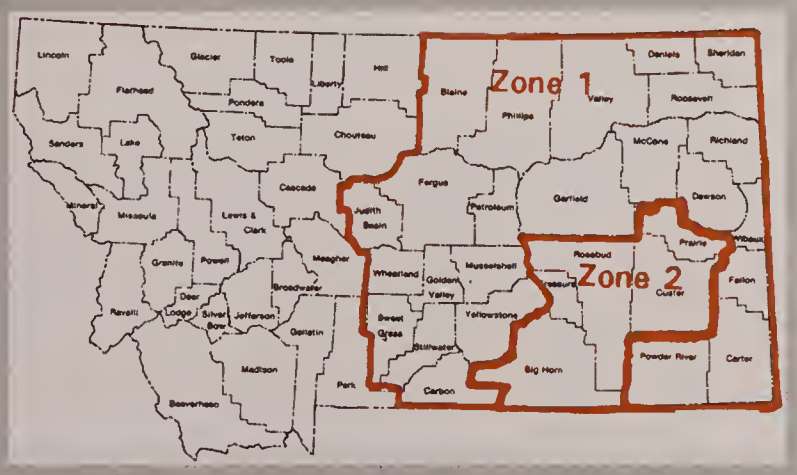
Exception – Pacific Flyway (Swans)

- **Exception 1:** Closed to hunting of all swans: those portions of Teton and Pondera counties lying west of US Highway 287 from Augusta to Choteau and US Highway 89 from Choteau to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

Exceptions – Pacific Flyway (Ducks, Geese, Mergansers, Coots)

- **Exception 1, Canyon Ferry** (see legal description): October 2-8, 2004. Hunting hours for all ducks, geese, mergansers and coots shall be one-half hour before sunrise to noon daily; thereafter, October 9, 2004 until close of the season, regular hunting hours apply.
  - **Legal Description:** Those portions of Broadwater, Lewis and Clark and Jefferson counties as follows: Beginning at Canyon Ferry Dam, then in a westerly and southerly direction along State Route 284 to US Highway 287, then east along said highway approximately one-quarter (1/4) mile to the Jefferson-Broadwater County line, then southerly along said line to the SW corner of T7N, R1W, then easterly along the south boundary of said township to its intersection with Indian Creek, then easterly down said creek to its intersection with US Highway 287, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with U. S. Highway 12 at Townsend, then easterly along said highway to the Broadwater-Meagher County line, then northerly along said line to the head of Magpie Gulch, then southerly down said gulch to State Route 284, then westerly along said highway to Canyon Ferry Dam, the point of beginning.
- **Exception 2, Missoula County:** Closed to hunting of all geese: A tract of land comprised of portions of Sections 20, 21, 28, T13N, R18W, more particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the Montana Power Dam at Milltown and extending in an easterly direction along the north shore of the impoundment to Interstate 90, then in a southeasterly direction along said interstate to the Old Milwaukee Railroad, then in a southwesterly direction across the reservoir where the old railroad bridge existed, then in a northwesterly direction along the railroad to the Montana Power Dam, the point of beginning.

Central Flyway



Central Flyway – see statewide closures

The Central Flyway includes Blaine, Fergus, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater and Carbon counties and all counties lying east of these.

Ducks –

Zone 1: Includes Blaine, Carbon, Carter, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux and Yellowstone Counties.

October 2, 2004 - January 6, 2005

Pintails & Canvasbacks – Open during two-day Youth Waterfowl Season September 25-26, 2004. Thereafter, season shall be open October 2 - November 9, 2004.

Zone 2: Includes Big Horn County (where the Bighorn River is the county line between Yellowstone and Treasure counties, the Zone 1 and 2 boundary shall be northerly along State Highway 47 to its junction with I-94, then north along the section lines on the east side of Sections 30 and 31 to the Yellowstone River), Custer, Prairie, Rosebud and Treasure Counties.

October 2, 2004 – January 6, 2005

Pintails & Canvasbacks – Open during two-day Youth Waterfowl Season Sept. 25-26, 2004. Thereafter, season shall be open October 2 - November 9, 2004.

Bag Limits: The daily bag limit is 6 ducks (including mergansers). The daily bag may contain no more than 5 mallards of which no more than 2 may be females, 2 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 1 pintail, 1 canvasback, 1 hooded merganser, and 3 scaup.

The possession limit may not exceed twice the daily bag limit of any species and sex.

Coots –

Open Season:

Concurrent with the duck season

Bag Limit: 15 daily and 30 in possession

Geese –

Open Season:

October 2, 2004 - January 14, 2005

Daily Limit: 5 light geese (Snow, Blue, Ross') and 4 dark geese (all other geese)

Possession Limit: twice the daily bag

Sandhill Cranes –

Open Season:

September 25, 2004 – November 21, 2004

Persons wishing to hunt Sandhill Cranes must obtain a free permit available from the Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge; Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge; Fish, Wildlife & Parks regional headquarters in Glasgow, Billings, Miles City or the Fish, Wildlife & Parks office in Helena.

Exceptions: That area south and west of Interstate Highway 90 is closed to the hunting of Sandhill Cranes.

Bag Limit: 3 daily and 6 in possession.

By permit only: Wheatland County and that portion of Sweetgrass County north of I-90:

September 11, 2004 – September 19, 2004

Hunting in specified portions of these two counties is by special limited permit only. Hunters must apply in writing by August 2. Hunters may apply for only one permit area in the state and must specify area of choice.

Bag & Possession Limit: 1 crane

Common (Wilson's) Snipe –

Open Season:

September 1, 2004– December 16, 2004

Bag Limit: 8 daily and 16 in possession

Tundra Swan –

Open Season:

October 2, 2004 - January 6, 2005

Bag Limit: Hunting only by special permit

Swan Special Permit Application –

- Applicants must possess a current year conservation license.
- Hunters may apply for a swan special permit online at fwp.state.mt.us or discoveringmontana.com OR over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than September 3, 2004. Hunters also have the option of applying by submitting their name, address, phone number, and ALS number, along with a $3 nonrefundable drawing fee. All applications must be postmarked no later than September 3, 2004. A special permit application may be downloaded from the FWP website or may be homemade. Send to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Attn: Swan Special Permit Drawing, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701.
- A total of 500 permits will be issued for the Central Flyway.
- Hunters may apply for a swan special permit in only one flyway.
- Surplus Central Flyway swan special permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis after September 20. Permits will be issued through the Automated Licensing System only at the Helena FWP headquarters and FWP regional headquarters in Billings, Miles City, and Glasgow. Hunters also have the option of requesting a surplus swan special permit through the mail by submitting their name, address, phone number, and ALS number to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620.

Falconry Season

Ducks and Coots – PACIFIC FLYWAY

October 2, 2004 - January 14, 2005

Ducks and Coots – CENTRAL FLYWAY

September 22, 2004 – January 6, 2005

Geese – Statewide

October 2, 2004 - January 14, 2005

Bag Limit: For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during the regular hunting season and the extended falconry season.

Statewide Closures

By order of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission, the following described areas are closed to hunting, harassment or molesting of migratory waterfowl. National wildlife refuges may have regulations differing from the statewide regulations, so hunters are advised to check with the refuge manager before hunting.

Region 1: None

Region 2, Warm Springs Pond No. 3: (Deer Lodge County): An area of land comprising portions of Sections 1, 2 11 and 12, T4N R10, portions of Sections 30 and 31, T5N, R9W, and portions of Sections 25 and 36, T5N, R10W, described as follows: Beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and the Opportunity Road; then northerly on said road to the northerly base of the dike of Warm Springs Settling Pond No. 3; then northwesterly along the base of said dike to the area road passing through the Mill-Willow Bypass; then due west from junction of base of said dike and road to Interstate 90 (as posted), then southerly along said interstate to its junction with Opportunity Road, the point of beginning.

Region 3, Portion of the Manhattan Game Closure: Beginning at the intersection of the west bank of the West Gallatin River and Interstate 90, then running west along the south boundary of said Interstate to a point near the interstate which leads to the ranch entrance of the R. A Young Ranch, then southwesterly to the east bank of the Spring Creek irrigation canal, then southwesterly along the east bank of said canal to the closest point to the Perk's Canal, then (as posted) westerly to the Perk Canal, then southerly along the east bank of the Perk Canal to Camp Creek, then southerly along the southeast side of Camp Creek to a left fork known as Spring Creek, then southerly along the southeast bank of Spring Creek to the south line of Section 23, T1N, R3E, then east along the south line of Sections 23 and 24, T1N, R3E, and Section 19 T1N, R4E, to the West Gallatin River, then north along the west bank of said river to its intersection with Interstate 90, the point of beginning.

Region 3, Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir (Lewis & Clark County): The Bureau of Reclamation Regulating Reservoir located in Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16 and 17, T10N, R2W in the Helena Valley as posted. (This area will be open to hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season, then it will be closed to all hunting.)

Region 3, South Half of Lake Helena (Lewis & Clark County): Beginning at a point in the southwest part of Lake Helena to be marked by a red buoy, then in a southwesterly direction to the south shore, then south approximately ½ mile, then in an easterly direction 1-1/2 miles, then north ¼ mile, then east ¾ mile to the west bank of the BLM drain ditch D-7, then down the west bank of the drain ditch to the lake and out into the lake a distance of 400 yards to a point marked by a red buoy, then in a southwesterly direction across the lake to the point of beginning in parts of Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, T11N, R3W, and in parts of Sections 19 and 30, T11N, R2W.

Region 4, Freezout Wildlife Management Area: (Teton County): SW1/4, Section 19, Sections 29 and 30, T22N, R3W, W1/2 Section 12, W1/2 of E1/2 Section 12, and that portion of Sections 13 and 24 within the posted boundary of the Freezout Wildlife Management Area, T22N, R4W. This area will be open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the general waterfowl season; from the opening of the waterfowl season through November 19, 2004, no hunting, access or harassment of wildlife will be allowed except for the direct and immediate foot, boat or dog retrieval of downed game having fallen in the closed area. This area will then reopen for all hunting from November 20, 2004 to the end of the season.

Region 4, Missouri River (Cascade County): The Missouri River below the ordinary high water inclusive of all islands, backwaters, and sandbars, beginning at the confluence of Sand Coulee Creek and the Missouri River, Section 36, T20N, R3E, then downstream to Black Eagle Dam, Section 6, T20N, R4E.

Region 5: None

Region 6, McLean Reservoir (Hill County): Approximately 2,560 acres located in Sections 16, 17 20, 21, T36N, R15E.

Region 6, Nelson Reservoir (Phillips County): All of those parts of Nelson Reservoir and within 300 yards of its shoreline within the following described sections: Sections 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35, T32N, R32E; and Sections 25 and 26, T32N, R31E; and Section 1, T31N, R31E; and Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6, T31N, R32E.

Region 6, North Chinook Reservoir (Blaine County): Approximately 2,215 acres located in the following sections and part sections of T35N, R18E: NE ¼, NW ¼, N ½, SE ¼, N ½, S ½, SE ¼, portion of the SW ¼ Section 22, 23, and 24; NE ¼. SE ¼, N ½, NW ¼, portion of S ½ NW ¼ Section 25: portion of the N ½, NW ¼ Section 26.

Region 6, Sands Lake (Hill County): SW ¼, Section 18, T32N, R16E.

Region 7, Treasure & Rosebud Counties: Beginning at the junction of the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers, then east down the Yellowstone River to the Rosebud-Custer County line, east of Hathaway, Montana (as posted). This closure shall be within the confines of the normal stream flow and shall include all islands,backwaters and sandbars.

2004 Sunrise-Sunset Tables For Determining Hunting Hours

These tables, including adjustments for daylight savings time, are the official sunrise-sunset tables adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission for hunting in Montana. Do not utilize from other sources.

Zone 1 - Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders Counties.

Zone 2 - Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Silver Bow, Teton and Toole Counties.

Zone 3 - Blaine, Big Horn, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland and Yellowstone Counties.

Zone 4 - Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Treasure, Wibaux and Valley Counties.

Zone 1

	Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.		Jan.	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:56	8:14	7:35	7:15	7:19	5:19	8:01	4:49	8:21	4:58
2	6:58	8:12	7:37	7:13	7:21	5:18	8:02	4:49	8:21	4:59
3	6:59	8:11	7:38	7:11	7:22	5:16	8:03	4:48	8:21	5:00
4	7:00	8:09	7:39	7:09	7:24	5:15	8:05	4:48	8:21	5:02
5	7:01	8:07	7:41	7:07	7:25	5:14	8:06	4:48	8:21	5:03
6	7:03	8:05	7:42	7:05	7:27	5:12	8:07	4:48	8:21	5:04
7	7:04	8:03	7:44	7:03	7:28	5:11	8:08	4:48	8:20	5:05
8	7:05	8:01	7:45	7:01	7:30	5:10	8:09	4:47	8:20	5:06
9	7:07	7:59	7:46	6:59	7:31	5:08	8:10	4:47	8:20	5:07
10	7:08	7:57	7:48	6:57	7:32	5:07	8:11	4:47	8:19	5:08
11	7:09	7:55	7:49	6:55	7:34	5:06	8:12	4:47	8:19	5:10
12	7:10	7:53	7:50	6:53	7:35	5:05	8:13	4:47	8:18	5:11
13	7:12	7:51	7:52	6:52	7:37	5:03	8:13	4:48	8:18	5:12
14	7:13	7:49	7:53	6:50	7:38	5:02	8:14	4:48	8:17	5:14
15	7:14	7:47	7:55	6:48	7:40	5:01	8:15	4:48	8:17	5:15
16	7:16	7:45	7:56	6:46	7:41	5:00	8:16	4:48	8:16	5:16
17	7:17	7:43	7:57	6:44	7:43	4:59	8:16	4:49	8:15	5:18
18	7:18	7:41	7:59	6:43	7:44	4:58	8:17	4:49	8:15	5:19
19	7:20	7:39	8:00	6:41	7:45	4:57	8:18	4:49	8:14	5:20
20	7:21	7:37	8:02	6:39	7:47	4:56	8:18	4:50	8:13	5:22
21	7:22	7:35	8:03	6:37	7:48	4:56	8:19	4:50	8:12	5:23
22	7:23	7:33	8:05	6:35	7:50	4:55	8:19	4:51	8:11	5:25
23	7:25	7:31	8:06	6:34	7:51	4:54	8:20	4:51	8:10	5:26
24	7:26	7:29	8:07	6:32	7:52	4:53	8:20	4:52	8:09	5:28
25	7:27	7:27	8:09	6:30	7:54	4:52	8:20	4:53	8:08	5:29
26	7:29	7:25	8:10	6:29	7:55	4:52	8:21	4:53	8:07	5:31
27	7:30	7:23	8:12	6:27	7:56	4:51	8:21	4:54	8:06	5:32
28	7:31	7:21	8:13	6:26	7:57	4:51	8:21	4:55	8:05	5:34
29	7:33	7:19	8:15	6:24	7:59	4:50	8:21	4:56	8:04	5:35
30	7:34	7:17	8:16	6:22	8:00	4:50	8:21	4:57	8:03	5:37
31			7:18	5:21			8:21	4:58	8:01	5:38

Zone 2

	Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.		Jan.	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:49	8:06	7:27	7:07	7:11	5:12	7:52	4:42	8:12	4:52
2	6:50	8:04	7:29	7:05	7:12	5:11	7:53	4:42	8:12	4:53
3	6:51	8:02	7:30	7:03	7:14	5:09	7:55	4:42	8:12	4:54
4	6:53	8:00	7:31	7:01	7:15	5:08	7:56	4:41	8:12	4:55
5	6:54	7:58	7:33	6:59	7:17	5:06	7:57	4:41	8:12	4:56
6	6:55	7:57	7:34	6:57	7:18	5:05	7:58	4:41	8:12	4:57
7	6:56	7:55	7:35	6:55	7:19	5:04	7:59	4:41	8:12	4:58
8	6:58	7:53	7:37	6:53	7:21	5:02	8:00	4:41	8:11	4:59
9	6:59	7:51	7:38	6:52	7:22	5:01	8:01	4:41	8:11	5:00
10	7:00	7:49	7:40	6:50	7:24	5:00	8:02	4:41	8:11	5:02
11	7:01	7:47	7:41	6:48	7:25	4:59	8:03	4:41	8:10	5:03
12	7:03	7:45	7:42	6:46	7:27	4:57	8:04	4:41	8:10	5:04
13	7:04	7:43	7:44	6:44	7:28	4:56	8:04	4:41	8:09	5:05
14	7:05	7:41	7:45	6:42	7:30	4:55	8:05	4:41	8:09	5:07
15	7:07	7:39	7:46	6:40	7:31	4:54	8:06	4:41	8:08	5:08
16	7:08	7:37	7:48	6:39	7:32	4:53	8:07	4:41	8:07	5:09
17	7:09	7:35	7:49	6:37	7:34	4:52	8:07	4:42	8:07	5:11
18	7:10	7:33	7:51	6:35	7:35	4:51	8:08	4:42	8:06	5:12
19	7:12	7:31	7:52	6:33	7:37	4:50	8:09	4:43	8:05	5:13
20	7:13	7:29	7:53	6:32	7:38	4:49	8:09	4:43	8:04	5:15
21	7:14	7:27	7:55	6:30	7:39	4:49	8:10	4:43	8:03	5:16
22	7:16	7:25	7:56	6:28	7:41	4:48	8:10	4:44	8:02	5:18
23	7:17	7:23	7:58	6:26	7:42	4:47	8:11	4:45	8:02	5:19
24	7:18	7:21	7:59	6:25	7:44	4:46	8:11	4:45	8:01	5:21
25	7:20	7:19	8:01	6:23	7:45	4:46	8:11	4:46	8:00	5:22
26	7:21	7:17	8:02	6:21	7:46	4:45	8:12	4:47	7:59	5:24
27	7:22	7:15	8:03	6:20	7:47	4:44	8:12	4:47	7:57	5:25
28	7:23	7:13	8:05	6:18	7:49	4:44	8:12	4:48	7:56	5:26
29	7:25	7:11	8:06	6:17	7:50	4:43	8:12	4:49	7:55	5:28
30	7:26	7:09	8:08	6:15	7:51	4:43	8:12	4:50	7:54	5:29
31			7:09	5:14			8:12	4:51	7:53	5:31

Zone 3

	Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.		Jan.	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:38	7:56	7:17	6:56	7:01	5:01	7:44	4:30	8:04	4:39
2	6:39	7:54	7:19	6:54	7:03	4:59	7:45	4:30	8:04	4:40
3	6:40	7:53	7:20	6:52	7:04	4:58	7:46	4:29	8:04	4:41
4	6:42	7:51	7:21	6:50	7:06	4:56	7:47	4:29	8:04	4:42
5	6:43	7:49	7:23	6:48	7:07	4:55	7:48	4:29	8:03	4:44
6	6:44	7:47	7:24	6:47	7:09	4:53	7:49	4:29	8:03	4:45
7	6:46	7:45	7:25	6:45	7:10	4:52	7:50	4:28	8:03	4:46
8	6:47	7:43	7:27	6:43	7:12	4:51	7:51	4:28	8:03	4:47
9	6:48	7:41	7:28	6:41	7:13	4:49	7:52	4:28	8:02	4:48
10	6:49	7:39	7:30	6:39	7:15	4:48	7:53	4:28	8:02	4:49
11	6:51	7:37	7:31	6:37	7:16	4:47	7:54	4:28	8:01	4:51
12	6:52	7:35	7:32	6:35	7:18	4:46	7:55	4:28	8:01	4:52
13	6:53	7:33	7:34	6:33	7:19	4:45	7:56	4:29	8:00	4:53
14	6:55	7:31	7:35	6:31	7:21	4:43	7:57	4:29	8:00	4:55
15	6:56	7:29	7:37	6:29	7:22	4:42	7:57	4:29	7:59	4:56
16	6:57	7:27	7:38	6:28	7:23	4:41	7:58	4:29	7:58	4:57
17	6:59	7:24	7:39	6:26	7:25	4:40	7:59	4:29	7:58	4:59
18	7:00	7:22	7:41	6:24	7:26	4:39	7:59	4:30	7:57	5:00
19	7:01	7:20	7:42	6:22	7:28	4:38	8:00	4:30	7:56	5:01
20	7:03	7:18	7:44	6:20	7:29	4:37	8:01	4:31	7:55	5:03
21	7:04	7:16	7:45	6:19	7:31	4:37	8:01	4:31	7:55	5:04
22	7:05	7:14	7:47	6:17	7:32	4:36	8:02	4:32	7:54	5:06
23	7:06	7:12	7:48	6:15	7:33	4:35	8:02	4:32	7:53	5:07
24	7:08	7:10	7:50	6:13	7:35	4:34	8:02	4:33	7:52	5:09
25	7:09	7:08	7:51	6:12	7:36	4:34	8:03	4:34	7:51	5:10
26	7:10	7:06	7:53	6:10	7:37	4:33	8:03	4:34	7:50	5:12
27	7:12	7:04	7:54	6:08	7:39	4:32	8:03	4:35	7:48	5:13
28	7:13	7:02	7:55	6:07	7:40	4:32	8:03	4:36	7:47	5:15
29	7:14	7:00	7:57	6:05	7:41	4:31	8:04	4:37	7:46	5:16
30	7:16	6:58	7:58	6:04	7:42	4:31	8:04	4:38	7:45	5:18
31			7:00	5:02			8:04	4:38	7:44	5:19

Zone 4

	Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.		Jan.	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:24	7:41	7:03	6:42	6:46	4:48	7:27	4:18	7:47	4:28
2	6:25	7:39	7:04	6:40	6:47	4:46	7:28	4:18	7:47	4:29
3	6:27	7:37	7:05	6:38	6:48	4:45	7:29	4:17	7:47	4:30
4	6:28	7:35	7:07	6:36	6:50	4:43	7:30	4:17	7:47	4:31
5	6:29	7:34	7:08	6:35	6:51	4:42	7:31	4:17	7:47	4:32
6	6:30	7:32	7:09	6:33	6:53	4:41	7:32	4:17	7:46	4:33
7	6:32	7:30	7:10	6:31	6:54	4:39	7:33	4:17	7:46	4:34
8	6:33	7:28	7:12	6:29	6:56	4:38	7:34	4:16	7:46	4:35
9	6:34	7:26	7:13	6:27	6:57	4:37	7:35	4:16	7:46	4:36
10	6:36	7:24	7:15	6:25	6:59	4:36	7:36	4:16	7:45	4:37
11	6:37	7:22	7:16	6:23	7:00	4:34	7:37	4:16	7:45	4:39
12	6:38	7:20	7:17	6:21	7:01	4:33	7:38	4:17	7:44	4:40
13	6:39	7:18	7:19	6:20	7:03	4:32	7:39	4:17	7:44	4:41
14	6:41	7:16	7:20	6:18	7:04	4:31	7:40	4:17	7:43	4:42
15	6:42	7:14	7:21	6:16	7:06	4:30	7:41	4:17	7:43	4:44
16	6:43	7:12	7:23	6:14	7:07	4:29	7:41	4:17	7:42	4:45
17	6:44	7:10	7:24	6:12	7:09	4:28	7:42	4:18	7:41	4:46
18	6:46	7:08	7:26	6:11	7:10	4:27	7:43	4:18	7:41	4:48
19	6:47	7:06	7:27	6:09	7:11	4:26	7:43	4:18	7:40	4:49
20	6:48	7:04	7:28	6:07	7:13	4:25	7:44	4:19	7:39	4:51
21	6:50	7:02	7:30	6:05	7:14	4:24	7:44	4:19	7:38	4:52
22	6:51	7:00	7:31	6:04	7:15	4:24	7:45	4:20	7:37	4:53
23	6:52	6:58	7:33	6:02	7:17	4:23	7:45	4:21	7:36	4:55
24	6:53	6:56	7:34	6:00	7:18	4:22	7:46	4:21	7:35	4:56
25	6:55	6:54	7:35	5:59	7:19	4:21	7:46	4:22	7:34	4:58
26	6:56	6:52	7:37	5:57	7:21	4:21	7:46	4:23	7:33	4:59
27	6:57	6:50	7:38	5:55	7:22	4:20	7:46	4:23	7:32	5:01
28	6:59	6:48	7:40	5:54	7:23	4:20	7:47	4:24	7:31	5:02
29	7:00	6:46	7:41	5:52	7:24	4:19	7:47	4:25	7:30	5:04
30	7:01	6:44	7:43	5:51	7:26	4:19	7:47	4:26	7:29	5:05
31			6:44	4:49			7:47	4:27	7:28	5:07

Who To Contact

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks State Headquarters

1420 East 6th Avenue, PO Box 200701,

Helena, MT 59620-0701 ..... **406-444-2535**

fwp@state.mt.us

Hunter Education **406-444-3188**
Wildlife Division **406-444-2612**
Enforcement Division **406-444-2452**
Parks Division (Montana State Parks) **406-444-3750**
Deer, elk, antelope, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and all special drawings **406-444-2950**
Resident and nonresident licensing for fishing, upland game birds, migratory birds, black bear, and mountain lion **406-444-2535**
Nonresident mailing list for deer and elk big game combination licenses and regulations **406-444-2950**
Telephone Device for the Deaf **406-444-1200**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters

REGION 1
490 N Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901 ..... **406-752-5501**
REGION 2
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804 ..... **406-542-5500**
REGION 3
1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59715 ..... **406-994-4042**
REGION 4
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405 ..... **406-454-5840**
REGION 5
2300 Lake Elmo Drive
Billings, MT 59105 ..... **406-247-2940**
REGION 6
Route 1-4210
Glasgow, MT 59230 ..... **406-228-3700**
REGION 7
Industrial Site West, PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301 ..... **406-234-0900**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Area Resource Offices

Butte
1820 Meadowlark Lane
Butte, MT 59701 ..... **406-494-1953**
Havre
2165 Hwy 2 East
Havre, MT 59501 ..... **406-265-6177**
Helena
930 Custer Avenue West
Helena, MT 59602 ..... **406-495-3260**
Lewistown
2358 Airport Road, PO Box 938,
Lewistown, MT 59457 ..... **406-538-4658**

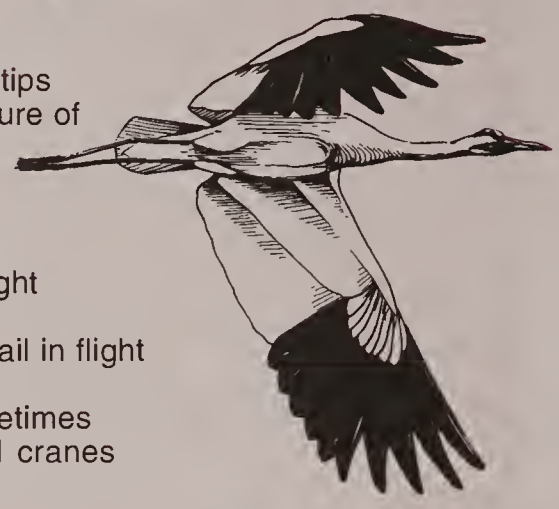
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Please report the band number, location and date shot for any banded migratory game bird that you harvest to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at 1-800-327-BAND

If a Whooping Crane is sighted, please call 406-444-2612

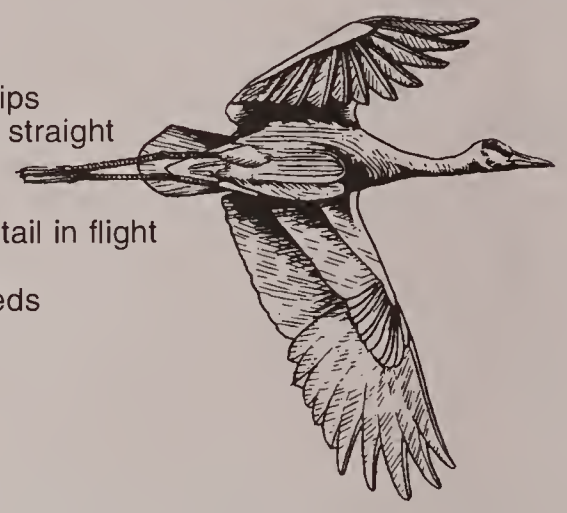
Whooping Cranes

- White with black wingtips
- Juveniles have a mixture of white and brown body feathers, with black wingtips
- Necks long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: 7 feet
- Legs extend beyond tail in flight
- Slow wingbeat
- Flocks of 2 to 7, sometimes migrate with sandhill cranes



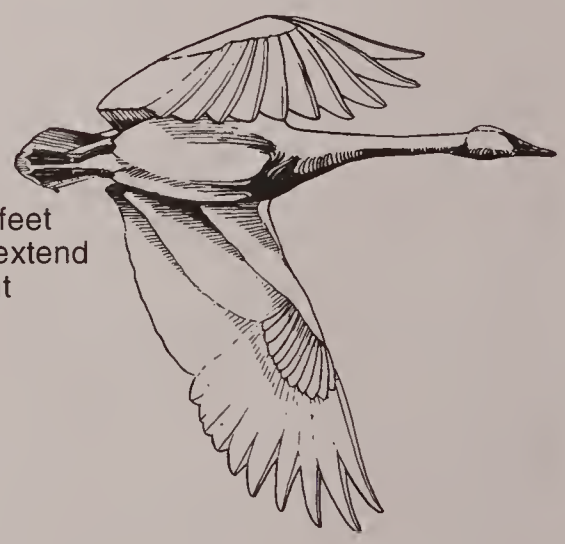
Sandhill Cranes

- Gray, with dark wingtips
- Neck long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: 5 feet
- Legs extend beyond tail in flight
- Slow wingbeat
- Flocks of 2 to hundreds



Swans

- All white
- Neck long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: over 6 feet
- Short legs, do not extend beyond tail in flight
- Flocks of 2 to 10



Snow Geese

- White with black wingtips
- Wingspan: 3 to 4 feet
- Short legs
- Rapid wingbeat
- Flocks of 20 to hundreds